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Title: IMAGE SENSOR AND TRANSPARENT COVER FOR THE SAME
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REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1, 3 and 5-19 remain pending in the application. Applicants note that the Office Action Summary Sheet and the Detailed Action list claims 1-19, rather than claims 1, 3 and 5-19, as pending claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al. (US 6,343,162) in view of Kurata et al. (US 4,518,999). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 2 and 4 have been canceled in the Amendment filed April 29, 2005.

Claim 1 requires a transparent cover including a transparent main body of a synthetic resin and a transparent glass member corresponding to an image reading region, wherein the transparent main body has a groove corresponding to the image reading region and the transparent glass member is placed in the groove.

The transparent cover of claim 1 advantageously includes a transparent main body made of a synthetic resin, which is more impact resistant and less susceptible to cracking than a transparent cover made entirely of glass. Moreover, the transparent cover also advantageously includes a transparent glass member corresponding to the image reading region, which has a high hardness so that its surface is not easily damaged by the image reading operation. In addition, the transparent glass member is placed in the groove and is thus protected by the transparent main body made of synthetic resin. Therefore, both the transparent main body and the transparent glass member are well protected from cracking and other damages (see page 18, line 22 to page 19, line 8 of the specification).

Saito et al. fail to teach or suggest the configuration of the invention of claim 1. Instead, Saito et al. discuss a transparent cover glass plate 1 on which an original is placed (see Saito et al., col. 4, lines 9-10). The rejection refers to the transparent cover glass plate 1 as suggesting the present transparent cover required by claim 1, refers to the frame of the image sensor 9 as suggesting the present transparent main body of the

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transparent cover, and again refers to the transparent cover glass plate 1 as suggesting the present transparent glass member of the transparent cover. However, the present transparent main body is in fact a portion of the transparent cover, rather than a frame of the image sensor as discussed in Saito et al. (see Saito et al., col. 4, lines 21-22). As clearly illustrated in Figs. 1, 3 and 4-7 of Saito et al., the frame 9 cannot be a portion of the transparent cover glass plate 1, as the rejection requires to meet claim 1. Therefore, Saito et al. fail to teach the transparent cover including a transparent main body of synthetic resin and a transparent glass member corresponding to an image reading region, as required by claim 1.

Moreover, the entire transparent cover glass plate 1 of Saito et al. by its name is made of glass. As discussed in the Background of the specification of the present case, when it is entirely made of glass, the cover can be broken easily upon an impact, causing broken pieces of glass scatter instantly (see page 2, lines 7-27 of the present specification). The present transparent cover including the transparent main body of synthetic resin and the transparent glass member is completely distinct from the transparent cover glass plate 1 in Saito et al. There is no reason in the record to modify the transparent cover glass plate 1 in Saito et al. to assume the configuration of the transparent cover required by claim 1.

In addition, Saito et al. do not teach or even suggest that the frame of the of the image sensor 9 be transparent as required by claim 1. On the contrary, those skilled in the art would readily understand that the frame of the image sensor 9 in Saito et al. in fact cannot be transparent. Indeed, Saito et al. provide no reasonable basis to adopt the transparent cover required by claim 1, nor any reasonable basis to expect the advantageous property enjoyed by the present invention.

Kurata et al. do not remedy the deficiencies of Saito et al. In addition, Kurata et al. also fail to teach or suggest that the transparent main body have a groove corresponding to the image reading region and that the transparent glass member be placed in the groove as required by claim 1. The rejection refers to an elongated groove 22 as suggesting the groove required by claim 1. However, the groove 22 in Kurata et al. is in fact for the pair of protrusions 23A and 24A to engage in so that the cursors 23 and

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24 can be slidably moved along the groove 22 (see Kurata et al., col. 2, line 55 to col. 3, line 9 and Fig. 4). There would be no reasonable basis to place a transparent glass member in the groove 22 in Kurata et al. because the object for using the groove 22 in Kurata et al. is for the protrusions 23A and 24A to slide inside the groove 22. Nowhere do the reference disclosures teach or even suggest a transparent glass member being placed in a groove as required by claim 1, so that a transparent main body made of synthetic resin can protect a transparent glass member and thus the transparent glass member is less susceptible to cracking.

For at least these reasons above, claim 1 is patentable over Saito et al. in view of Kurata et al. Claims 3 and 18 depend from claim 1 and are patentable along with claim 1 and need not be separately distinguished at this time. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of the rejection to the remaining features of the rejected claims 1, 3 and 18.

Claim 5 is patentable over Saito et al. in view of Kurata et al. for reasons similar to those discussed above. Claim 5 requires a transparent cover including a transparent main body of a synthetic resin and a transparent glass member corresponding to an image reading region, wherein the transparent main body has a groove corresponding to the image reading region and the transparent glass member is placed in the groove. The reference disclosures fail to disclose or suggest such configuration as required by claim 5 for reasons similar to those discussed above regarding claim 1. For at least these reasons, claim 5 is patentable over Saito et al. in view of Kurata et al. Claims 6-14 and 19 ultimately depend from claim 5 and are patentable along with claim 5 and need not be separately distinguished at this time. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of the rejection to the remaining features of the rejected claims 5-14 and 19.

Claim 15 is patentable over Saito et al. in view of Kurata et al. for reasons similar to those discussed above. Claim 15 requires a transparent cover including a transparent main body of a synthetic resin, and a transparent glass member placed in a groove formed in a surface of the transparent main body. The reference disclosures fail to disclose or suggest such configuration as required by claim 15 for reasons similar to those discussed

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above regarding claim 1. For at least these reasons, claim 15 is patentable over Saito et al. in view of Kurata et al. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of the rejection as to the remaining features of claim 15.

Claim 16 is patentable over Saito et al. in view of Kurata et al. for reasons similar to those discussed above. Claim 16 requires a transparent cover including a transparent main body of a synthetic resin and a transparent glass member placed in a groove formed in a surface of the transparent main body. The reference disclosures fail to disclose or suggest such configuration as required by claim 16 for reasons similar to those discussed above regarding claim 1. For at least these reasons, claim 16 is patentable over Saito et al. in view of Kurata et al. Claim 17 depends from claim 16 and is patentable along with claim 16 and need not be separately distinguished at this time. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of the rejection to the remaining features of the rejected claims 16 and 17.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612) 455-3804.



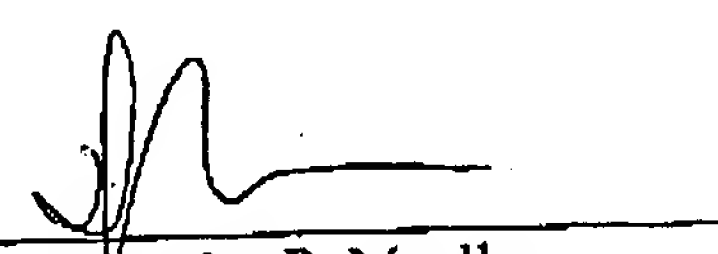
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Respectfully submitted,

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